

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**WISE OR UNWISE DECISION?:  
STUDENTS' AND TEACHERS' EVALUATION OF  
'STEP BY WICKED STEP'  
AS A LITERATURE TEXT IN THE ESL CLASSROOM**

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## **AUTHOR'S DECLARATION**

I declare that the work in this thesis was carried out in accordance with regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the result of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. The thesis has not been submitted to any academic or non-academic institution for any other degree or qualification.

I hereby, acknowledge that I have been supplied with the Academic Rules and Regulations for Post Graduate, Universiti Teknologi MARA, regulating the conduct of my study and research.

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## ABSTRACT

In 2010, the Malaysian Ministry of Education has decided to renew the entire content of the literature component in English subject. One of the selections of the newly prescribed literary text is the novel entitled 'Step by Wicked Step' written by Anne Fine. This novel becomes the highlight of this study due to the students' and teachers' negative perceptions of the previous novel selection as claimed by Nurul Atiqah (2003), Vethamani (2003) and Norliana et al. (2009). Therefore, one of the objectives of this study is to identify the variables that significantly influenced students' attitudes towards the novel 'Step by Wicked Step'. Furthermore, the study also attempted to obtain the ESL students' and teachers' evaluation of this particular novel in two different dimensions. The first dimension is to identify the quality or qualities of this novel which makes it appropriate for young adult readers. The second dimension is to identify the strengths and weaknesses of this novel as ESL students' reading materials. In addition, the students' and teachers' suggestions for the improvement of the current literature text selection were also elicited through this study. In order to fulfill these objectives, two research instruments namely questionnaire and semi-structured interview were utilized. The findings of Chi-square correlation analysis revealed that the students' attitudes towards English reading material is the most significant variable that influenced the students' attitude towards reading the novel 'Step by wicked Step'. From the analysis of the respondents' evaluations, it was found that the novel possesses seven from ten qualities of an appropriate young adult's novel as suggested in Paul Zindel's guideline. The analysis of the mean value of the respondents' evaluation also found that the novel has five strong qualities and three weaknesses as an ESL learners reading material.

## ABSTRAK

Kementerian Pendidikan Malaysia telah mengambil langkah untuk memperbaharui seluruh kandungan komponen sastera di dalam matapelajaran Bahasa Inggeris pada tahun 2010. Novel 'Step by Wicked Step' hasil tulisan Anne Fine merupakan salah satu bahan bacaan sastera yang diperkenalkan di dalam pemilihan terbaru ini. Novel tersebut menjadi tumpuan kajian ini kerana wujudnya persepsi negatif di kalangan pelajar dan guru terhadap pemilihan novel sebelum ini seperti yang didakwa oleh Nurul atiqah (2003), Vethamani (2003) and Norliana et al. (2009). Oleh yang demikian, salah satu objektif kajian ini adalah untuk mengenalpasti pembolehubah yang mempengaruhi sikap pelajar terhadap novel 'Step by Wicked Step'. Di samping itu, kajian ini juga cuba untuk mendapatkan penilaian pelajar dan guru terhadap novel ini berdasarkan dua dimensi penilaian yang berbeza. Dimensi penilaian yang pertama adalah bertujuan untuk mengenalpasti kualiti-kualiti yang wujud pada novel ini sebagai bahan bacaan yang bersesuaian untuk golongan remaja. Dimensi yang kedua adalah untuk mengenalpasti kekuatan dan kelemahan novel ini sebagai bahan pengajaran dan pembelajaran untuk Bahasa Inggeris sebagai bahasa kedua. Selain itu, cadangan dan pandangan pelajar dan guru bagi penambahbaikan proses pemilihan novel untuk komponen sastera turut diperolehi dari kajian ini. Bagi memenuhi objektif kajian, dua instrumen kajian iaitu borang kajiselidik dan soalan temuramah telah digunakan. Hasil dapatan kajian dari analisis Chi-square mendapati bahawa sikap pelajar terhadap bahan bacaan dalam Bahasa Inggeris merupakan pembolehubah utama yang mempengaruhi sikap pelajar terhadap novel 'Step by Wicked Step'. Hasil analisa terhadap penilaian responden turut mendapati bahawa novel ini menepati tujuh dari 10 kualiti yang perlu ada pada novel remaja seperti yang disarankan di dalam garis panduan Paul Zindel. Hasil dapatan kajian dari analisa skor purata penilaian responden pula mendedahkan bahawa novel ini mengandungi 5 kualiti positif dan 3 kelemahan utama sebagai bahan pengajaran dan pembelajaran komponen sastera di dalam matapelajaran Bahasa Inggeris di sekolah.